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## Amendment to Assessment Act Urged by Mining Towns

**C. V. Gallagher, Reeve of Tisdale Eloquently Presents the Difficulties of Mining Towns of the North. Ontario Municipal Association Agrees and Passes Resolution in the Matter. Present Plan Not Considered Equitable or Fair.**

At the annual session of the Ontario Municipal Association held at Toronto last week one of the big items of business before the association was the matter of the unfairness of present conditions in regard to the way the assessment act works out in connection with the mining towns of the North. Mr. C. V. Gallagher, reeve of Tisdale, gave a very able exposition of the situation and the unfortunate position of the towns and townships in re-

gard to taxes and assessment and the evident injustice under which they suffer at present. After Reeve Gallagher's address there was a general discussion and the association appeared fully convinced of the fairness and logic of the case as presented by Mr. Gallagher. The matter was referred to a committee to draft a resolution in the matter. This resolution, when drafted, suggested that legislation should be sought at the next session of the legislature by way of amendment to the Ontario Assessment Act.

The resolution, which was passed by the Ontario Municipal Association, was moved by C. V. Gallagher, reeve of Tisdale, and seconded by Frank Lendrum, mayor of Cobalt, and was as follows:—

"That whereas the municipalities in which mining is the chief industry, are faced with the difficulties of providing school and general facilities for a very rapidly increasing population, and whereas the real property liable to assessment is small compared to the population, therefore be it resolved that the Ontario Municipal Association express its appreciation of the peculiar conditions in the municipalities concerned, and further endorse and support such alterations and amendments to the Assessment Act and the Municipal Act, as will afford financial relief to the said municipalities."

The delegates from the North in attendance in this connection included Reeve Gallagher and F. C. Evans, clerk of Tisdale; Mayor E. L. Longmore, Timmins; Reeve R. J. Carter, Teck Township; A. P. Tyrwhitt, clerk of Bucke Township, and Mayor Frank Lendrum, Cobalt.

The address by Mr. Gallagher made a very decided impression on the Ontario Municipal Association, according to all the press and other reports from Toronto. The matter developed from meetings called originally by Mayor Lendrum, of Cobalt, who urged the various municipalities of the North to gather and discuss the problem. Meetings of representatives of the North Land municipalities were held at Kirkland Lake this year and the question was discussed then from different viewpoints. There was general agreement that the assessment act as it applied to mines and municipalities that had mines within their borders was not equitable and did not give the municipalities concerned a fair show. Arrangements were made for the North Land municipalities to have a place on the programme of the Ontario Municipal Association convention so that the case could be fully presented. Mr. C. V. Gallagher, was chosen as the man to present the case and very evidently he made a thoroughly good job of it. It is likely that another meeting of the North Land municipal representatives will be held in the near future, probably at Kirkland Lake, to make plans to carry the case for the mining municipalities to the provincial government, so that the premier and members of his cabinet may be familiar with the viewpoint of the municipalities when the matter comes before the legislature.

Elsewhere in this issue The Advance gives the report of the session of the Ontario Municipal Association as published in The Toronto Star. To this may be added the report of the proceedings by another press correspondent. In this latter report Mr. Gallagher was quoted as saying:—"Mining companies escape taxation at the

expense to their employees. If it is necessary to bonus mining industries which are on their feet and earning large dividends, this should not be done at the expense of municipalities which are under all the handicaps of pioneer conditions." Reeve Gallagher dealt chiefly with the municipalities share of taxation on active mining properties. The Bucke township controversy over this year's legislation respecting severance of mineral rights from other values, in municipal assessment of vacant lands, did not come up this time although some Northern men were present, including R. L. Carter, Reeve of Teck; A. R. Tyrwhitt, Clerk-Treasurer, of Bucke and Frank C. Evans, Clerk-Treasurer of Tisdale.

Subsequently, says the report, at a session of the elected representatives' section, a resolution by Reeve Gallagher and Mayor Lendrum, of Cobalt, asking amendments in relation to school assessment was adopted and sent on to the resolution committee. Tisdale Township, Reeve Gallagher said, although only six square miles in area, contains three of the largest gold mines in America. The town of Timmins is a corner thereof. He recalled enactment of 1907 permitting municipal assessment of three per cent, on mining profits above \$10,000 and that of 1910, under which buildings, plant and machinery used mainly for mining and milling operation was made non-assessable and reducing tax payable to local municipalities to 10 mills on the dollar, to be deducted from profits tax payable to the Government.

"All other industries," he continued, "are required to pay full municipal taxes, whether making profits or not, and no mining town can hope to provide necessary public services for its inhabitants and protect the great mining plants unless the latter pay their proper proportion of taxes. By substituting a 10 mill income tax, the legislature restricted municipalities to small part of what they were entitled to and municipalities of New Ontario find it difficult to understand why it was necessary, on behalf of companies paying millions in profits. The municipalities think the government should be just before it is generous."

"The impression of some members of the legislature seems to be that the government is granting a special concession to municipalities in giving a portion of mining taxes; whereas it is giving only a portion of what it should be. It should be remembered that T. and N. O. railway lands and buildings are non-assessable, and that one-quarter of town lots laid out are held as crown lands, non-assessable until sold."

"Tisdale, with a debenture debt of \$794,284, gets \$29,158 in mining tax, and from 1924 to 1928 our tax rate has run 57.5 mills. In one school section it was up to 85 mills. Hollinger mine is now part of Timmins, but the McIntyre plant has been assessed at \$285,026, of which we could levy on only \$148,000, and the Dome was assessed in 1920, when we went to the Railway Board, at \$772,003, while we can assess only on \$303,000. Out of \$170,000 payable to the government from Hollinger, Timmins gets only \$35,000 income."

"We believe that the development of Northern Ontario in all respects should be encouraged to the extreme limit by the people of Old Ontario, whose heritage it is, and we request the Municipal Association to assist us in securing the necessary legislation to take the burden from the shoulders of the people who, by industry and effort, are developing the resources of this heritage for the benefit of all, and place it on the shoulders of those who should bear the burden."

Mayor Longmore, of Timmins, the report continued pointed out that the tax rate in North Land municipalities does not tell the whole story because the towns and townships are also compelled by their requirements to make what is practically a 100 per cent assessment as well as a comparatively high rate. "It is the local municipalities that are encouraging mining not the provincial government in this particular," Mr. Longmore is quoted as saying.

Mayor Lendrum, of Cobalt, mentioned that mining properties within the bounds of Cobalt contributed only \$1,100 to public school support and less than \$900 to the separate schools. The whole north of Cobalt, is on the Nipissing property, Mayor Lendrum said, and residents pay both both ground rentals and taxes to the company.

Asked by a delegate from Guelph if the government guaranteeing of municipal bonds would help, Reeve Gallagher replied:—"Undoubtedly it would. They take care of school debentures that way. Of course, the government would be in a predicament as it would have established a precedent. We get their sympathy at all times, but that does not put in waterworks and sewers."

### PLANNING NORTHERN MOTOR CRUSADE FROM THE SOUTH

The Orillia News-Letter last week says:—"A meeting will be held in the office of Mr. George Overend, Peter street, next Friday, for the purpose of discussing a motorcade through northern Ontario from Orillia. The Hon. Mr. Wm. Finlayson will be present to talk over the project with all who are interested."

When honesty is a policy it deserves careful scrutiny; when it is a habit, you may safely trust it, unquestioned.

Some folks seem to think that they effect something when it is only an affect.

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### DATES OF 1928 FALL FAIRS

Cochrane	September 12 and 13
Englehart	September 15 and 16
Kapuskasing	September 14 and 15
Matheson	September 19
New Liskeard	September 13-15
North Bay	September 19-21
Porcupine	September 12
Porcupin Junction	September 12 and 13
London (Western Fair)	Sept 8-15

### HON. CHAS. McCREA SHOW THAT HE'S AN EXPERT AT FISHING

The Sudbury Star last week says:—"One of the best catches of fish that has been made in these parts this season fell to the line of Hon. Charles McCrea, M.L.A. for Sudbury, and Ontario Minister of Mines, who is spending his vacation at his summer home on Lake Ramsay. While out in his boat about 11 o'clock Thursday morning Mr. McCrea felt a tug on his line which left no doubt as to the intentions of the party at the other end. For a time Mr. McCrea thought the Sault "whale" had escaped into Lake Ramsay and he was about to land it. When finally hauled in, the prize proved to be a 17 1/2 pound pike, measuring exactly 40 inches in length. The fish is on exhibit on ice in the window of Jerry's cigar store."

If you feel too big for your job it may find you too small, squeezing you out to grasp those greater opportunities you feel capable of embracing.

### MEETING LADIES' AUXILIARY CANADIAN LEGION, SEPT. 12

There will be a meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Canadian Legion on Wednesday, Sept. 12th, at the home of the president, Mrs. L. McLaughlan, Fourth avenue. All members and those wishing to become members, are earnestly invited to attend. This meeting was originally called for Sept. 5th, but owing to the absence from town of the president, was postponed to Wednesday of next week, Sept. 12th. For the benefit of any interested in joining the Auxiliary, it may be repeated that membership is open to the wives, mothers and sisters of returned soldiers and to all women who served in any capacity in any of the various women's services during war. Further particulars may be secured from the president, Mrs. McLaughlan; the vice-presidents, Mrs. Maxwell and Mrs. Shragge; or the secretary, Mrs. Hartling, Schumacher. Any interested may also receive any information desired in the matter, at the meeting on Sept. 12th.

For one man who does not choose to run in 1928 there are several hundred or more who do.

Finding fault with the other fellow may blind the boss to your faults—and then, again, it may make him see them more clearly.

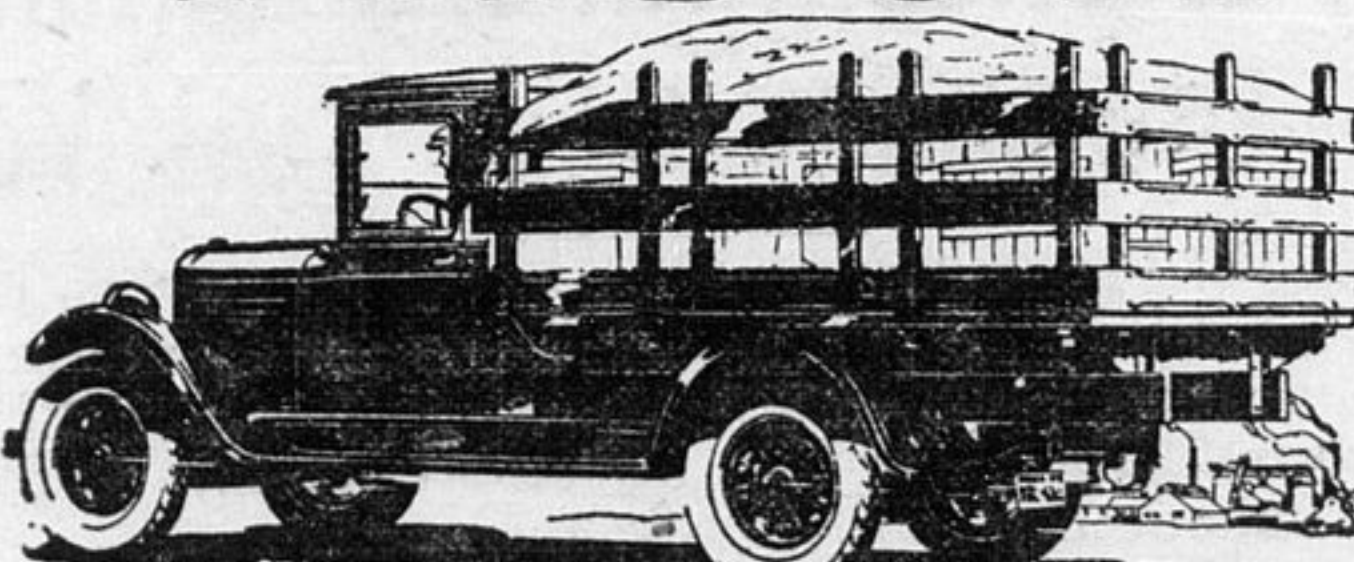
Malfort Journal:—The smaller the mind the longer it takes to make up.

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